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SUBJECT: USAID-SUPPORTED CASH-FOR-WORK ACTIVITIES

¶1. Summary. The January 12 earthquake in southern Haiti destroyed household assets and income generating opportunities. USAID-funded cash-for-work (CFW) programs mitigate the economic impact of the earthquake through targeted interventions, including clearing of debris to create safe living spaces, rubble removal, canal clearing, soil conservation, and flood mitigation. Done in cooperation with local authorities, CFW programs strengthen local governments and restore livelihoods. End Summary.

OVERVIEW

¶2. The magnitude 7.0 earthquake that struck southern Haiti on January 12 destroyed household assets and caused significant job loss. CFW programs mitigate the economic impact of the earthquake, enabling beneficiaries to resume livelihoods in a dignified manner and rebuild their communities. USAID-supported CFW projects have multiple, mutually reinforcing objectives, including community renewal, injection of cash into the local economy, and enabling of earthquake-affected populations to replace damaged items or to purchase necessities.

Coordination

¶3. Various operating units in USAID are supporting CFW activities. The offices coordinate in order to avoid duplication and ensure guidelines are aligned with the Early Recovery Cluster. USAID-funded activities provide 200 gourdes, or USD 5, for seven hours of productive labor. In addition, employees must be at least 18 years of age and the workforce should comprise 40 percent women.

¶4. USAID programs target specific populations and aim to facilitate larger goals. USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) aims to create safe living spaces through

CFW activities that meet emergency humanitarian needs and bridge emergency activities to early recovery interventions. USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) programs include community-prioritized CFW activities—such as rubble removal, canal clearing and restoration of public spaces—to support local authorities and promote community stabilization in neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince. USAID/Haiti CFW programs build on longstanding CFW activities and engage community members in multiple areas of the country to rebuild livelihoods and infrastructure.

Creating Safe living space

¶ 15. USAID/OFDA CFW programs target interventions to create safe living spaces for earthquake-affected households. At present, USAID/OFDA is supporting CFW activities in Port-au-Prince and other earthquake-affected areas through eight NGO partners.

¶ 16. For example, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly USD 21 million to CHF International to support the community livelihoods and economic assistance through rubble removal and shelter (CLEAR) program. The CLEAR program targets 12,000 CFW beneficiaries with short-term employment opportunities for removal of dangerous remnants of buildings, homes, and other infrastructure, while increasing access to space where families can construct shelters or restart livelihood activities.

¶ 17. USAID/OFDA has also provided nearly USD 20 million to World Vision's integrated community assistance recovery effort (IRAP), which incorporates CFW activities into site clearing and preparation for shelter construction. World Vision's CFW activities target more than 10,000 individuals to level and clear land in preparation for shelter installation. CFW programs engage individuals in some shelter construction activities, and also include daily pit latrine cleaning and maintenance to ensure adequate sanitation at newly constructed sites. In total, World Vision plans to construct 5,000 shelters on the cleared sites.

¶ 18. In hosting communities, an influx of families displaced by the earthquake is overwhelming already resource-poor households. To help sustain relationships between displaced families and host communities and prevent the return of displaced persons to unsafe dwellings in Port-au-Prince and other affected locations, USAID/OFDA plans to support income-earning opportunities to offset the economic impact on hosting households. CFW activities will provide an immediate source of income while improving living environments, ensuring displaced families do not overwhelm infrastructure and mitigate perceptions that the presence of displaced families is decreasing the health and well-being of the overall community.

strengthening local governance

¶ 19. USAID/OTI is working in cooperation with local officials and community leaders to identify priority CFW projects, including debris clearing from roads, schools, health clinics, and other

public spaces. In addition, USAID/OTI is supporting CFW activities to clear drainage canals that could potentially cause flooding in areas where people are residing, field hospitals are established, or other key social infrastructure is located.

¶10. USAID/OTI supports CFW activities through two implementing partners, Development Associates Inc. (DAI) and Chemonics. On February 22, USAID/OTI-funded activities employed more than 2,000 individuals at 36 sites in seven communes of Port-au-Prince, including Tabarre, CitCBC,B) Soleil, Turgeau, Carrefour, Delmas, and PCBC,B)tionville.

restoring livelihoods

¶11. USAID/Haiti CFW activities build from longstanding partnerships with non-governmental organizations CHF International and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which implement complementary programs in Port-au-Prince and outlying areas.

¶12. Following the January 12 earthquake, USAID/Haiti redirected existing resources to support earthquake-related CFW recovery activities. In the earthquake-affected areas of Port-au-Prince and Petit GoCBC,B"ve, CFW crews are engaged in demolition and rubble removal from priority public spaces such as roads, schools, and government buildings. Mission partners utilize a combination of high intensity manual labor and heavy machinery. Outside of earthquake-affected areas, USAID/Haiti augmented existing CFW programs that fund activities, including the construction of gully plugs to mitigate flooding and prevent soil erosion while creating fertile land for planting. Other activities include rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage canals, as well as rural roads and small bridges.

¶13. Since the earthquake, USAID/Haiti has reallocated USD 3.5 million to CHF International and more than USD 11 million to IOM to support CFW activities. On February 22, USAID/Haiti-supported activities employed nearly 11,000 individuals at nearly 270 sites in Port-au-Prince, Cap-HaCBC,B/tien, Gonaives, Saint-Marc, Les Cayes, and Petit GoCBC,B"ve. CFW activities outside of Port-au-Prince are critical to creating economic opportunity for those displaced as a result of earthquake as well as the communities receiving displaced populations.

conclusion

¶14. The January 12 earthquake has had significant economic impact in Haiti, which USAID is mitigating through CFW activities. CFW projects inject cash into the community by providing temporary work opportunities for affected populations. The CFW activities aim to stimulate longer-term asset and livelihood restoration for direct CFW beneficiaries and their communities.

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